

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2002, 8:00 a.m., Room 106, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Jeff Searcy, Kim Todd, V.J. Nelson, Tom Laging, Jim Hewitt, and Karen Kilgarin

Others: Bob Ripley (Commission Staff / DAS), Ken Fougeron (DAS Representative), Mark Canney & Lynn Johnson (Parks & Recreation), Wayne Burcham (Public Works - Engineering Services), Ed Zimmer & Missy Minner (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE

OF THE MEETING: Regular meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Approval of the meeting notes of March 27, 2002 -

Meeting notes were approved 5-0; Nelson, Hewitt, Laging, Searcy and Todd voting 'yes'; Kilgarin and O'Donnell absent.

Installation of "temporary" pedestrian lights on Centennial Mall between P Street and R Street, requested by University of Nebraska-Lincoln -

Zimmer stated that he met with Owen Yardley from the UNL Police and Larry Kathol from LES regarding the suggestions from the Commission's last meeting. While they are still only able to fund the proposal of wooden poles, they have decided to move the location of the lights to the alleys adjacent to the Mall. The lights will be out of the 120' corridor of the Centennial Mall right-of-way. They will use some existing poles and add a couple wooden poles. They are aware that only a permanent improvement with appropriate Mall lights can occur in the front yard of Anderson Hall and at the chapel should they desire more light at those locations.

Zimmer noted that the use of lights similar to those on Lincoln Mall, but with overhead wiring, was unworkable because the "drape" of the wires would reach as low as about 9 feet and pose a safety hazard, according to Mr. Kathol.

Hewitt asked what the downside of putting up these specific lights would be. Todd stated that they are ugly. Ripley added that it also runs the risk of setting a precedent. The issue of dealing with LES has been going on for years. Hewitt was of the opinion that a precedent can be ignored, however he did not disagree with Ripley's evaluation. He felt that the use of light seems like a good thing and indicated his approval of this proposal.

Commissioners asked Zimmer to request that the University present an update on the campus plan, specifically including this temporary lighting and R Street, to the Commission.

Traffic Signals on the Mall -

Burcham of Public Works explained that there are approximately 53 intersections that have traffic signals on steel poles that need to be replaced.

If there is a the plan to close J Street at 16th Street, they could leave the pedestrian signal where it is. If the present street pattern is intended to stay the same, the pedestrian crossing at 16th & J will have to be moved 100' per the direction of the Federal Highway Administration.

As part of this improvement, they will remove the old sidewalk, replace the dirt, install sod and realign the new sidewalks. The new sidewalks will meet ADA requirements and match the existing sidewalk joint lines.

He cautioned the Commission that wooden poles will be used during the removal of the old and installation of the new poles. They anticipate construction beginning in August and taking anywhere from nine months to a year. They anticipate distributing information about the project door to door or possibly holding an informational meeting. The intersections will not be completely closed during the construction. If ultimately J Street is closed, this work would not need to be revised.

Zimmer suggested that the Commission might want to reiterate that the J Street closure is anticipated. The Commission instructed Zimmer to send that information to Public Works.

LB 729 -

Zimmer explained that this Bill makes a technical change to the height standard in the Environs. The more significant changes are the extensions of the east and north boundaries of the Environs district. On the east, the full boundary is extended to 24th Street and then the ROW only is included all the way to 35th Street. The north boundary is extended to S Street.

He requested direction for guidelines that deal with these new boundaries that can be forwarded to the City Council. He suggested a sub-committee might be a good way to accomplish this.

Correspondence from Glenn Cekal -

A letter was received from Glenn Cekal suggesting that a terminus be installed at So. 15th and A Street and roundabouts be installed on So. 15th at E Street and at C Street.

Commissioners asked that Zimmer send a note to Public Works stating that Commission is not in favor of circular "spot" improvements on the Mall without consideration of the overall design and improvement plan.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.